

Appl. no. 10/617,956
Amdt dated May 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated December 30, 2005

Remarks

We thank the examiner for allowing claims 1-3, 6, and 8-10.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schmutz (US Patent 6,718,160). Applicant has amended independent claim 4 to include the further limitation that the relay transfer buffer operates to facilitate the storage of data for scheduled transmission. This feature is not taught or suggested Schmutz. Support for this limitation can be found in the application generally, and in particular in par.0047. Accordingly it is submitted that amended claim 4 is now allowable. Consequently it is submitted that previously rejected claims 5 and 7 are also allowable and withdrawal of said rejections is hereby requested.

Claim 8 was indicated to be allowed. Please note that claim 8 incorrectly depended from claim 6, which is a method claim, and should have depended from the intelligent relay claim 4. Applicant has accordingly amended claim 8 to depend from claim 4. In any event it is submitted that the additional limitation of claim 8 is not taught or suggested by either reference, and is allowable.

Applicant has added new claims 11-13. New claim 11 is similar to claim 4 but includes a relay control channel. This subject matter is not taught or suggested Schmutz. Support for this limitation can be found in the application generally, and in particular is disclosed in par. 0024. Accordingly it is submitted that new claim 11, and new dependent claims 12 and 13 are allowable.

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and requests favorable consideration of the application.

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No fee is believed due for this submission. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to debit any required fee from Deposit Account No. 501593, in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. The Commissioner is further authorized to debit any additional amount required, and to credit any overpayment to the above-noted deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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